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# BENCHMARKS

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Holiday party is December 20.

Highlights this year include Italian food and traditional Italian music performed by Richard Stillman on the 17th floor of Weiss Research Building, French food in Café East and Spanish tapas and music by Spanish guitarist Shan Kenner in Café South.

### Evolution Symposium to be held in May.

Rockefeller University will host a symposium on evolution on May 1 and 2, 2008, supported by the Fairfield Osborne Memorial Lecture fund. Eighteen speakers from research institutes across the world will present the science of evolution in four subtopics: archaean chemistry and earliest fossils; cells, cellular evolution and protein history; development of eukaryotic genetic capacity and multicellularity; and human evolution: through the lens of DNA sequences. The two-day event will also include a public lecture. More information about the event will be published in a future issue of *BenchMarks*.

### Events calendar gets an overhaul.

Communications and Public Affairs and Information Technology are in the process of overhauling Rockefeller's online calendar of events and room reservation system. Based on input from the campus community, improvements to the user interface and functionality of the calendar are being implemented. To check out the changes and new features, go to [www.rockefeller.edu/calendar](http://www.rockefeller.edu/calendar).

### New benefit offers discounted event tickets.

University employees are now eligible for exclusive theater, sports, music, museum and other entertainment discounts through Plum Benefits, a corporate marketing service. To take advantage of the service, enroll for free at [www.plumbenefits.com](http://www.plumbenefits.com), choose an event featured on the Web site and use the special discount codes displayed with the event when purchasing tickets. For more information, call Plum Benefits customer service at 212-660-1888 or e-mail [contact@plumbenefits.com](mailto:contact@plumbenefits.com).

Announcements for this page may be submitted to [thenning@rockefeller.edu](mailto:thenning@rockefeller.edu).

## CAMPUS NEWS

# Concepts emerge for planned Welch Hall renovation

by ZACH VEILLEUX

In the university's early years, it was a grand space where scientists gathered for meals, study and discussion. More recently it has served as storage for archived journal volumes and office space for the library's staff. But if new plans — under development since last year — proceed, Welch Hall's restored library may again be known as one of the university's central gathering spots.

Welch Hall, constructed in 1929, has long served as the university's library and also housed its main dining facility until the Weiss Research Building opened in 1971. But with scientists turning primarily to their own computers for scientific literature, the building, with dramatic ceilings and sweeping views of the river, has become something of a forgotten gem in recent years. It is also in need of maintenance. "Welch Hall today is run-down, out of code and not well utilized," says George Candler, associate vice president for planning and construction.

Paul Nurse has been interested in recapturing the space since he became president, and the university's other construction projects — the building of the Collaborative Research Center just north of Welch and the expansion of the animal facility at the southwest corner of the campus (see "LARC Annex designs completed," right) — provide an opportunity to bundle a Welch Hall renovation into the financing and permit process already under way with those projects.

Last year, the university evaluated several architectural firms with expertise in both restoration and library design and selected R.M.Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects to work on Welch. Kliment & Halsband were tasked with surveying the conditions of the existing structures and designing plans for restoring the building and surrounding gardens, modernizing the library and creating a scientific "commons" to better serve the research needs of today's scientists. A library restoration committee of faculty, administration, library staff and students was formed to advise the architects.

A number of shortcomings were discovered during architects' review of the building, including insufficient egress capacity, inadequate plumbing, poor accessibility for the disabled and extensive water damage to

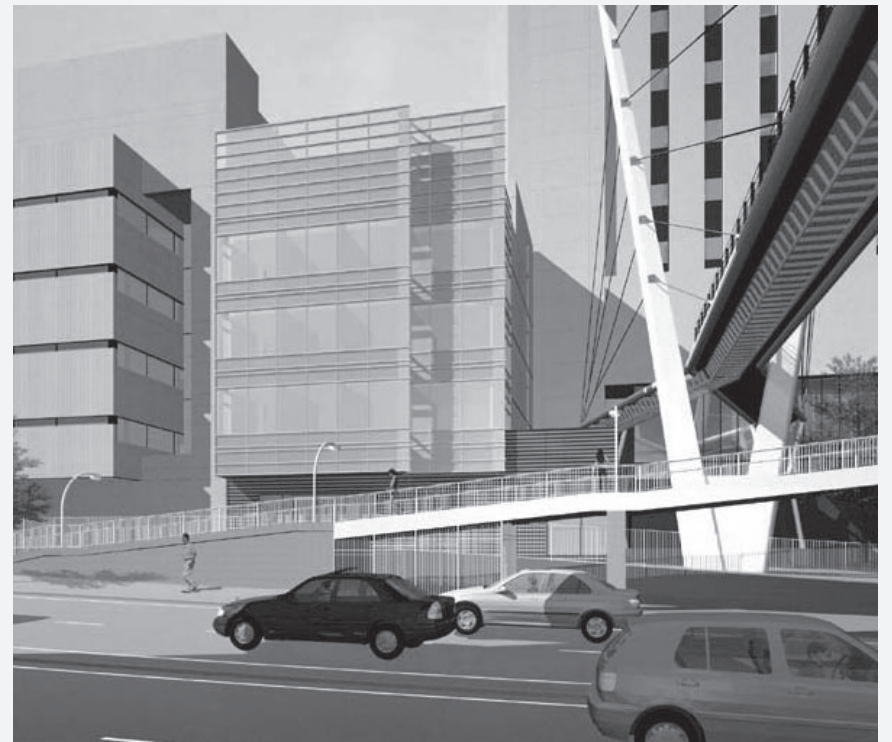
the metal anchors that secure the building's façade. (The gardens on either side of Welch have been closed due to the danger of falling masonry.) Some of these deficiencies would need to be addressed even if the building was not fully renovated.

"In addition to their work on-site, the architects have developed some concepts for what a restored Welch Hall might look like, and we have begun to assess those designs in terms of costs," says Mr. Candler. "Once we have estimates, it will be up to the university's leadership to determine in which direction we proceed." If a concept

is finalized this winter, a completed design could be ready about a year later and construction could begin in 2009.

In the meantime, a Welch hall renovation plan will be reviewed, as have been the plans of the CRC and LARC annex, by the city planning commission, which must approve the plans before permits can be issued and construction work can begin. "It's important that the planning commission consider all three projects because they are concerned in part with the net expansion of square footage on the entire campus," Mr. Candler says.

## LARC Annex designs completed



**Glass house.** The architects' rendered view of the LARC Annex from across 63rd Street.

Architects from KlingStubbins, a design firm based in Philadelphia with experience in animal research facilities, have completed plans for a four-story addition to the Laboratory Animal Research Center that will house research suites for investigators in neuroscience and behavior research.

The construction, which will begin in the next few months and will

proceed concurrently with the Collaborative Research Center project, is being managed by Turner Construction. Turner, which is also overseeing the CRC construction, began the bidding process for the work in October.

The expanded animal research facility will be called the Comparative Biosciences Center, or CBC, and the name

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## ADMINISTRATION

# Grants office expands its mission under new director

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

In the hypercompetitive, high-stakes world of scientific research grants, Rockefeller's faculty has a new leg up. This fall, Gila Budescu, most recently from Northwestern University, has joined the university as director of the Office of Sponsored Research and Program Development. The office, which previously focused on grant submissions and compliance, is now taking a broader view of the grant-seeking process,

aiming to also explore emerging opportunities at the formative phase and to enable large-scale collaborative initiatives.

"My initial plans are to build on the expertise and talents of the dedicated staff, to work closely with the researchers, to collaborate with other university offices involved with the research enterprise and to create and streamline tools and services to facilitate joint research and team science

in an integrated and dynamic fashion," says Dr. Budescu.

Dr. Budescu, who grew up in Israel, studied philosophy, psychology and anthropology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She then received her Ph.D. in organizational behavior — the study of organizations through economic, sociological, psychological, political science and anthro-

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## BENCHMARKS

Paul Nurse, President  
 Jane Rendall, Corporate Secretary  
 Joe Bonner, Director of Communications  
 Zach Veilleux, Executive Editor  
 Talley Henning Brown, Assistant Editor

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# City to study making York Avenue one-way

by ZACH VEILLEUX

The New York City Department of Transportation is studying a series of proposals, introduced by three of Rockefeller University's neighboring institutions, to revamp traffic patterns along York Avenue. If any of the proposals is ultimately implemented, it could mean changes to metered parking and bus routes serving Rockefeller and possibly converting York Avenue to one-way traffic, dramatically changing the routes by which vehicles access the university's campus from the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive.

The issue first came up in 2005 in response to traffic congestion along York Avenue between 68th and 71st Streets where the three institutions — NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Medical College of Cornell University and the Hospital

for Special Surgery — are located. In those blocks, vehicles making left turns from York Avenue must fight for space with cars exiting the FDR at 71st Street and vans and trucks loading and unloading passengers and goods.

The three institutions commissioned a traffic engineering firm, Sam Schwartz PLLC, to study the traffic congestion and recommend solutions. The result was four proposals. The most sweeping option is to convert York Avenue to one-way southbound traffic for either nine, 19 or 26 blocks, including along Rockefeller's five-block frontage with York Avenue. Though it would increase traffic flow, this proposal would require rerouting the northbound M31 bus and would likely also increase traffic volume through a largely residential

neighborhood.

Other options proposed by Schwartz are to make York Avenue one-way southbound but with a northbound "contra-flow" bus lane; to reverse or close the 71st and 73rd Street access points to the FDR; and to restripe York Avenue to eliminate parking and create dedicated left-turn lanes at key intersections.

"Like the other three institutions, we're concerned about traffic congestion on York Avenue. But we believe that a one-way York Avenue would not be a positive development for the university," says George Candler, associate vice president for planning and construction.

The university's administration is primarily troubled by the prospect of increased traffic at the 63rd Street inter-

section, which has been the site of several pedestrian accidents in recent years, as well as the greater volume of cars that might use a southbound-only York Avenue for access to the Queensboro Bridge. "In addition, if York Avenue became one-way, it would become more difficult to access the campus from the FDR and it might also create problems for trucks using the loading docks at 64th Street," Mr. Candler says.

Earlier this year, the Department of Transportation asked Community Board Eight, which represents the Upper East Side between 59th Street and 96th Street, to request another study to be paid for by the institutions.

On November 8, *Metro* newspaper reported that a group of elected officials

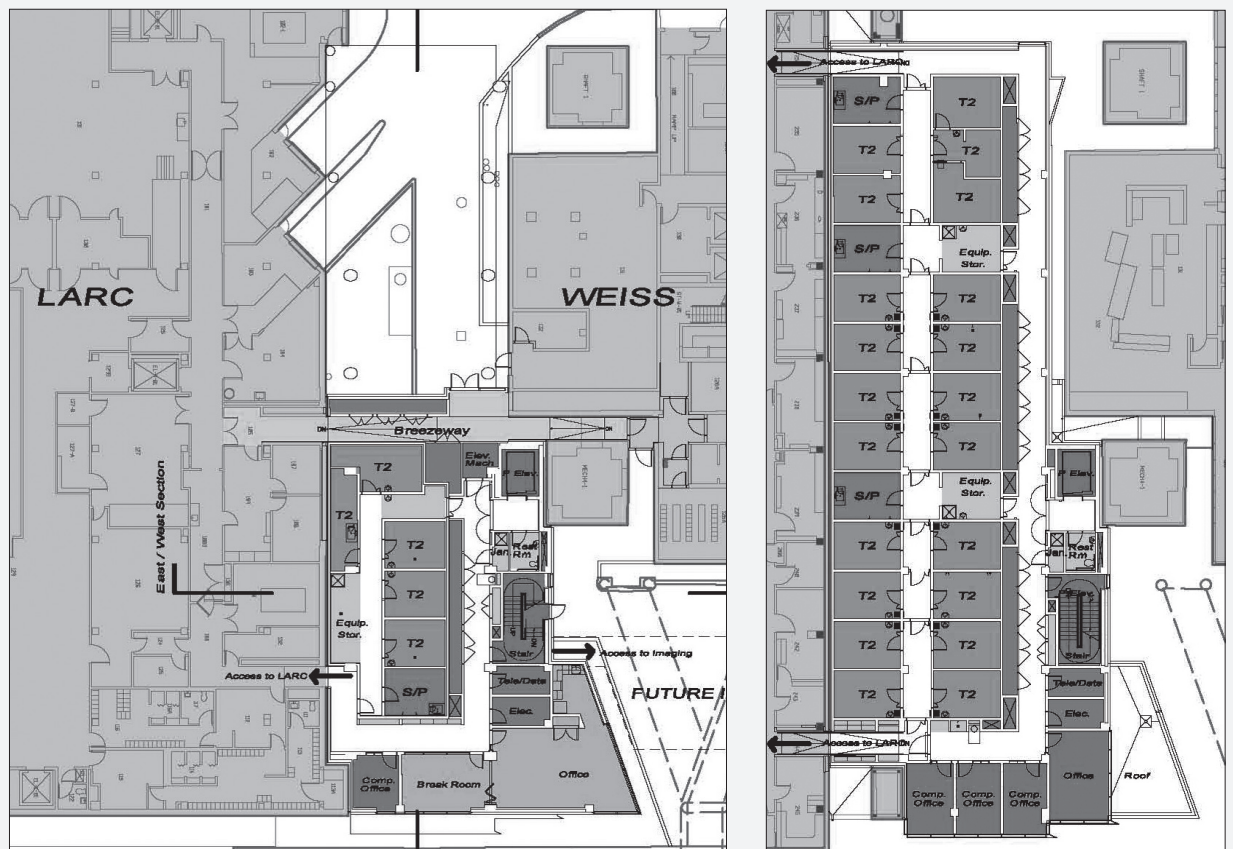
[continued on page 4](#)

## LARC Annex (continued from page 1)

"LARC," which has been used since the original building was constructed some 30 years ago, will be phased out. "We've chosen a name that more accurately reflects the sophisticated research going on in the facility in recent years and our center's continued role to facilitate and contribute to the research programs of many laboratories," says the center's director, Ravi Tolwani.

The annex will rise on the space currently used as LARC's loading dock, between LARC and the Weiss Research Building, and will have a frosted glass façade to contrast with the heavier limestone used on both those buildings. Three floors will be devoted to animal research and offices for administration and support staff. A fourth floor will house mechanical equipment and will contain shell space that can be built out in the future. The existing loading dock will be preserved underneath.

"The challenges in designing this building were in fitting it into the tight space between two existing structures, and in working the foundation around existing utilities that are buried beneath the entire site," says George Candler, associate vice president for planning and construction. "In choosing construction methods, we have also considered how to best reduce noise and minimize disturbances to those who work in the adjacent buildings."



From the ground up. Floor plans for two of the LARC Annex's four floors — the ground floor, at left, and the second floor, at right — show how the loading dock will be preserved beneath the new structure. The building will fit snugly between LARC and Weiss.

## Grants office expands its mission (continued from page 1)

polological methods — from the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology) in Haifa. In her doctoral dissertation she examined the impact of organizational culture on service quality in the service industry, analyzing the encounter between service providers and their clients. "Organizations are embedded in their environment," Dr. Budescu says. "Functioning as open systems, organizations benefit from the constant value and knowledge exchange (or transactions) with their constituencies and from the evolution of common understandings and aspirations. I believe that sharing goals among all university members and with their stakeholders is a key ingredient to our success."

Since moving to the United States in 1992, Dr. Budescu's work has involved the application of this approach within the context of research institutions. She became managing director of a National Institutes of Health resource for computational biology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign's Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. There, among her other responsibilities, she was a coinvestigator on the development of an NIH-funded online research collaborative for computational biology, and oversaw a development team creating molecular dynamics and graphics software applications. The project sought to provide a comprehensive online framework to facilitate collaborative research and training in macromolecular modeling and bioinformatics. "Working with physicists, chemists, biochemists, computer scientists, software developers, communication scholars and



On the money. Director of Sponsored Research and Program Development Gila Budescu, in her Founder's Hall office.

other experts has taught me that success relies on willingness to listen and work together toward shared goals," she says.

In 2003, Dr. Budescu moved to Northwestern University's newly established Institute for BioNanotechnology in Medicine, where she developed the administrative infrastructure for collaborative research in the field of bionanomedicine. "In both these institutions," she says, "the main thing was to be informed by researchers coming from different fields, and then build our operations in a way that would truly respond to and anticipate their heterogeneous needs, taking maximum advantage

of available resources to push their work forward. In creating the Program Development effort and revitalizing our present services we want to similarly support Rockefeller researchers in their pursuit of excellence."

Dr. Budescu will bring many of the ideas and solutions she developed at Urbana-Champaign and Northwestern to Rockefeller. The funding landscape is changing and with it, at least to some extent, the nature of doing science. While the office has been effective in working with the researchers, the proliferation of collaborative research across disciplines and institu-

tions, and the physical distance that entails, requires a continuous reexamination of priorities. Dr. Budescu hopes to more effectively navigate this changing landscape by designing and implementing new support tools and, as importantly, engaging more closely with researchers to assist them in adjusting to the new realities.

"I believe Gila's plans to meet with every lab head to understand their individual research interests, to keep each investigator informed about relevant funding and to offer her department's support for new collaborative projects reflect important new directions for this office," says Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Young. "Faculty have been asking for help as funding has tightened, and we need to be able to compete more broadly for external funds."

To kick-start what she plans to make a regular discourse between the office and the laboratories it supports, Dr. Budescu is already meeting with lab heads and administrators. She has also begun revamping the office's Web site, working with Information Technology to make it easier for researchers to access resources and to simplify electronic submissions.

"It is important to me and to this office to help advance the wonderful and critical work that is being done by our investigators," she concludes. "We must be responsive and proactive in helping our scientists. The office will work with the researchers and their administrators to as much as possible free our scientists to do more science and less administration."

PHOTO: ZACH VEILLEUX



## Old spaces give way to new laboratories

As demolition work on the north campus kicks into full gear, several relocated laboratories are settling into newly renovated digs further south. Plant Operations personnel, in conjunction with Planning and Construction, spent months refitting several spaces with new fixtures to accommodate specific labs.



Nam-Hai Chua, head of the Laboratory of Plant Molecular Biology, had a number of growth chambers on the B level of the Flexner Extension, left. His new space, on the C floor of Weiss Research Building, center, was previously used as storage space. After installing new lighting and climate controls, right, the biggest challenge was moving the growth chambers to their new home. With a permit from the New York City Department of Transportation, the university shut down a southbound lane of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive in order to move the equipment by truck. Dr. Chua's lab is on the 16th floor of Weiss.



Fernando Nottebohm's Laboratory of Animal Behavior was moved from the second floor of Smith Hall to the seventh floor of Weiss. The new space, previously an out-of-date laboratory, was one of the simpler renovations completed this summer. In addition to new cabinetry and shelving, a chemical fume hood was installed. The new lab shares the floor with the Genomics Resource Center and the High Throughput Screening Resource Center.



The sound chambers of A. James Hudspeth's Laboratory of Sensory Neuroscience were moved from the C floor of Smith Hall to the first floor of Detlev W. Bronk Laboratory, a space most recently occupied by the now defunct New Media and Design Resource Center. Planning and Construction first hired consultants to determine if the space would be suitable for the sound chambers, and then brought in a specialized Canadian company to line the walls and ceilings with welded, seamless metal sheeting, in order to insulate the sound chambers from electromagnetic waves. Space for Elaine Fuchs's and Marcello Magnasco's labs now occupies the first floor of Bronk as well. Drs. Hudspeth and Fuchs have commissioned renowned graffiti artist Coco 144 — also known as Robert Gualtieri, electrician in Plant Operations — to paint a mural in the corridor that connects the three labs.

PHOTOS: DAN GIANFAGNA

## CAMPUS NEWS

### Calling all personnel

Rockefeller University expands its electronic alert notification system to include all members of the campus community

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

Send Word Now, an emergency alert system first implemented in 2005 to quickly communicate with “first responders” on campus during a disaster, has been expanded to cover all Rockefeller University e-mail addresses, phone extensions and university-issued cell phones. Starting this winter, Telecommunications will allow members of the university community to enroll their home and personal mobile device numbers as well.

SWN Alert Service, the core product offered by communications software provider Send Word Now, is an on-demand voice and electronic messaging Web portal designed to get information to all members of a large, widespread organization in real time. At Rockefeller, the service is used

to announce and conduct follow-ups on fire drills, alarm tests and false alarms; for communications drills among patient-care personnel at The Rockefeller University Hospital; and, in case of a campus- or city-wide emergency, to alert first responders and communicate while emergency procedures are in play. The service, which is run by Telecommunications in concert with Security and administrative heads, integrates with the university's existing telephone and e-mail systems.

As part of the ongoing effort to evaluate and strengthen the university's disaster plan, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee joined forces with Security about three years ago to evaluate several third-party alert notification

services, and eventually purchased a service contract with Send Word Now. Initially, about 300 members of the Rockefeller community who play first responder roles — loosely including members of Security, Plant Operations, Laboratory Safety and Environmental Health, LARC and the hospital — were enrolled. When an alert needs to be sent, authorized personnel access Rockefeller's account on the Send Word Now server and choose which contacts on its list will receive the alert. Then the activator, usually the security officer on duty at the front desk of Founder's Hall, types in a message and hits send. Within seconds, all contacts receive a phone call and an e-mail.

In May, the university announced plans to expand its contract to be able to add all

members of the Rockefeller community to the contact list. Early this fiscal year, Telecommunications added all campus phone extensions as well as the e-mail addresses and mobile device numbers associated with those extensions. Now they're working on adding the contact information of personnel who don't have individual phone extensions on campus, and on November 14, the Dean's Office sent a letter requesting contact information of all students who live in Rockefeller housing — which is outside the campus phone tree. Enrollment will open this winter for those who wish to add personal contact information, including home and cell phone numbers and personal e-mail addresses. “Expectations

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# MILESTONES

## PROMOTIONS, AWARDS AND PERSONNEL NEWS

### Awarded:

**Dirk Albrecht, Maria Neimark Geffen and Jan Skotheim**, 2008 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Awards at the Scientific Interface. The grants, which come with \$500,000 each over five years, are designed to foster the early career advancement of researchers with backgrounds in the physical and/or computational sciences whose work addresses biological questions. Dr. Albrecht is a postdoc in the Bargmann lab; Dr. Geffen is a fellow at the Center for Studies in Physics and Biology; and Dr. Skotheim is a postdoc in the Siggia lab.

**Sean F. Brady**, a 2007 Searle Scholarship, for innovative research in the chemical/biomedical sciences. Dr. Brady, head of the Laboratory of Genetically Encoded Small Molecules, is one of 15 Searle Scholars this year.

**Sean F. Brady**, a Sinsheimer Scholar Award from the Alexandrine and Alexander L. Sinsheimer Fund. The award, a grant of \$50,000 each year for three years, is made to individuals in the early stage of their careers who demonstrate potential for making major contributions with respect to the prevention or cure of human disease.

**Paul Greengard**, the 2007 Science and the City Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in New York City, from the New York Academy of Sciences. Dr. Greengard is Vincent Astor Professor and head of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience.

**Charles M. Rice**, the 2007 M.W. Beijerinck Virology Prize, awarded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The prize, which includes a cash award of euro34,000, is given every three years. Dr. Rice, who is Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Professor and head of the Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease, will be presented with the award in Amsterdam

on December 17.

**Leslie B. Vosshall**, a 2008 Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists from the New York Academy of Sciences. The award recognizes the achievements of young scientists and engineers born in or after 1965 who have contributed significantly to interdisciplinary research in the life, physical and social sciences and engineering. The prize, which comes with an unrestricted cash prize of \$25,000, was presented at the fourth annual NYAS Science and the City Gala on November 12. Dr. Vosshall is Chemers Family Associate Professor and head of the Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior.

### Published:

*The Neuroscience of Fair Play: Why We (Usually) Follow the Golden Rule*, by **Donald W. Pfaff**. Published this month by The University of Chicago Press, Dr. Pfaff's book challenges our understanding of ethics and social contracts with the proposition that the Golden Rule is hardwired into the human brain. "The book provides a realistic theoretical mechanism as to how the human nervous system produces behaviors that are in accord with a universal ethical principle," says Dr. Pfaff, head of the Laboratory of Neurobiology and Behavior.

### Promoted (academic appointments):

**Hironori Funabiki**, from assistant professor to associate professor, Funabiki Lab.

**Kang Liu**, from postdoctoral associate to research associate, Nussenzweig Lab.

**Michelle Lowes**, from instructor in clinical investigation to assistant professor of clinical investigation, Krueger Lab.

**Jan Lunemann**, from postdoctoral fellow to research associate, Münz Lab.

**Michael Rendl**, from postdoctoral associate to research associate, Fuchs Lab.

**Anne Schaefer**, from postdoctoral fellow to research associate, Greengard Lab.

**Milos Vujanac**, from postdoctoral associate to research associate, Stebbins Lab.

**Qingjun Wang**, from postdoctoral associate to research associate, Chait Lab.

### Hired:

**Diana Bernal-Messinger**, clinical research nurse practitioner, Hospital Program Director.

**Janisha Biyanwila**, research assistant, Blobel Lab.

**Andrea Castagneto**, teacher, Child and Family Center.

**Chia Chan**, postdoctoral associate, Strickland Lab.

**John Edmond**, security guard, Security.

**Estanislado S. Esparza**, immigration and academic appointments assistant, Human Resources.

**Liang Feng**, postdoctoral associate, MacKinnon Lab.

**Elizabeth K. Fitzgerald**, assistant to the associate vice president, Research Support.

**Andres Gottfried**, visiting fellow, McEwen Lab.

**Kristina Hedbacker**, postdoctoral associate, Friedman Lab.

**Stephen Hooper**, mail room clerk, Mail Room.

**Loren Hough**, postdoctoral associate, Rout Lab.

**Garud Iyenger**, visiting associate professor, Leibler Lab.

**Charalampos Kariolis**, painter, Housing Faculty House.

**Robert Landick**, visiting professor, Darst Lab.

**Benjamin Lasalata**, immigration and academic appointments specialist, Human Resources.

**Indira Londono**, research support assistant, Transgenic Services.

**Troy Milliam**, security guard, Security.

**Remi Monasson**, visiting scientist, Leibler Lab.

**Dariush Moussai**, visiting fellow, Krueger Lab.

**Yigal Dov Nochomovitz**, postdoctoral associate, Siggia Lab.

**Thomas R. Noriega**, research assistant, Blobel Lab.

**Eudys Pina**, animal attendant, LARC.

**Vito Piscitello**, assistant superintendent, Housing Scholars Residence.

**Gregory Resch**, postdoctoral fellow, Fischetti Lab.

**Selina Riddick**, animal technician, Greengard Lab.

**Israr Ahmad Sheikh**, visiting scientist, Pfaff Lab.

**Edward Siden**, visiting associate professor, Nussenzweig Lab.

**Patricia Smith**, administrative assistant, LARC.

**Leah Souffrant**, administrative assistant, Wiesel Lab.

**Xiao-Jian Sun**, postdoctoral fellow, Roeder Lab.

**Joanna Szlichcinska**, research assistant, James Darnell Lab.

**Selima D. Taylor**, assistant, clinical research support, Hospital Clinical Research Office.

**Mary Walkey**, electrician, Plant Operations Maintenance Shop.

**Yu-Ying Yang**, postdoctoral fellow, Hang Lab.

This publication lists new hires, retirements, awards and promotions. Staff promotions are listed yearly; academic promotions and appointments are listed monthly.

## OBITUARY

### Life Trustee Brooke Astor dies at 105

by TALLEY HENNING BROWN

Brooke Russell Astor was known as a great conversationalist, but her philosophy regarding her life's work was something she described succinctly: "Power is the ability to do good things for others." The beloved grande dame of New York philanthropy circles and a trustee of The Rockefeller University for 35 years, Mrs. Astor died of pneumonia on August 13 at Holly Hill, her estate in Briarcliff Manor, New York. She was 105 years old.

Brooke Russell was born March 30, 1902 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the daughter of Marine Commandant John H. Russell and Mabel Howard. She married three times: first to J. Dryden Kuser in 1919 (with whom she had one son, later known as Anthony Marshall), second to Charles Marshall in 1932 and lastly to Vincent Astor in 1953. She had homes in Westchester County as well as Massachusetts and Maine, but spent most of her work week in her Park Avenue apartment, where she could personally oversee the charitable undertakings that would become her legacy.

Mrs. Astor was a prolific writer, penning over the years numerous magazine articles, two memoirs (*Patchwork Child*, 1962, and *Footprints*, 1980) and two novels (*The Bluebird Is at Home*, 1965,

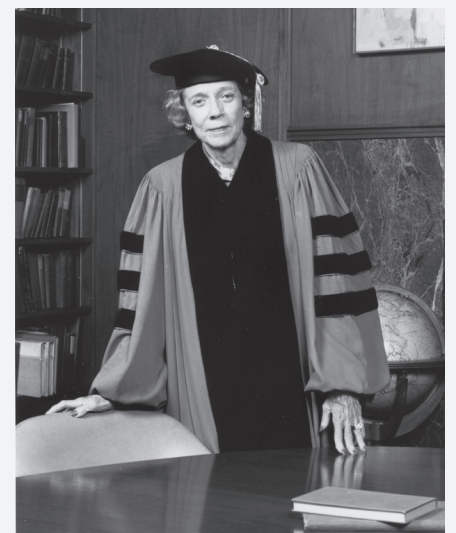
and *The Last Blossom on the Plum Tree: A Period Piece*, 1986). She worked briefly as an editor at *House and Garden* magazine and for many years wrote articles for *Vanity Fair* magazine. It was upon Vincent Astor's death, in 1959, and her inheritance of his estate — \$60 million in her name and \$60 million for what would become the Vincent Astor Foundation — that her real career began.

Mrs. Astor devoted nearly five decades to sowing a larger sense of community among the city's erstwhile aristocracy, as the established matriarch of New York's philanthropic circle. She regularly contributed time and money to the institutions she referred to as New York's "crown jewels": the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Morgan Library and Museum, the New York Botanical Garden, the New York Public Library and The Rockefeller University, among many others. Unusual among her social set, however, she spent equal energy providing for the basic operational needs of homeless shelters, jobs programs, nursing homes, schools, youth centers and other such organizations. By the time the Vincent Astor Foundation was dissolved in 1997, Mrs. Astor had donated almost \$195 million as its president. In

recognition of her generosity, she was given many unusual honors: In 1981, the Bronx Zoo named a baby elephant "Astor" in her honor; in 1996, the New York Landmarks Conservancy designated her a living landmark.

Rockefeller University elected Mrs. Astor to its Board of Trustees in 1972. Over the next 35 years, she gave generously to the university, contributing to the endowment as well as to unique projects. The many endeavors she supported include the expansion of the Child and Family Center, the creation of the Brooke Astor Student Life Center and the building of the 63rd Street Pedestrian Bridge. She helped establish the *Women & Science* initiative and she endowed three faculty chairs, currently held by James Darnell Jr., Paul Greengard and Torsten Wiesel. Throughout her tenure, she was a devoted supporter of Rockefeller's students and the graduate program. The university conferred upon her an honorary degree in 1984, the David Rockefeller Award for Extraordinary Service to The Rockefeller University in 1996 and the Brooke Astor Award for Outstanding Contributions to Science, created for her, in 1998.

Mrs. Astor is survived by her son,



Anthony Marshall, two grandsons, Philip and Alexander Marshall, and three great-grandchildren. In a eulogy delivered at her funeral service, lifelong friend and fellow trustee David Rockefeller said, "She was beloved not only by her many friends and family who honored her today, but also by millions of others whose lives she touched, especially those throughout our great city ... We will never again see another woman with the rare grace and charm and *joie de vivre* of our treasured friend Brooke."

## Calling all personnel (continued from page 3)

for rapid and accurate communications continue to increase. People expect it and technology now certainly allows for it," says Amy Wilkerson, associate vice president for research support. "This service offers very cost-effective augmentation to our existing systems, providing wider coverage and flexibility than we can achieve with

the university's internal phone, paging and public address systems. Adding personal contacts will allow us to get the word out to everyone necessary even faster." Telecommunications plans to send outreach and instructions for enrolling personal contact information to campus before the end of winter.

## York Avenue (continued from page 2)

had sent a letter to the city's transportation commissioner, Janette Sadik-Khan, expressing concerns over the proposal. The officials, who were not named, claimed the study was insufficient and expressed concerns about how the proposed conversion would impact city buses, planned Bus Rapid Transit service on First and Second

Avenues, and how trucks will access a proposed garbage facility near 91st Street.

More recently, local officials have also solicited input from Rockefeller about the proposals. Comments from the university community may be sent to Director of Communications and Public Affairs Joe Bonner at bonnerj@rockefeller.edu.